



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
Founded in 1930

VOL. 64

April 2012

NO. 8

Old Timers' Night: Military Radio!

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC

Old Timers' Night has always been one of the favorites for the club, and this year's presentation promises to be yet another awesome one. We have two outstanding co-presenters, each of whom is no stranger to RaRa. Specifically, they are Ed Gable, K2MP, and Roy Wildermuth, W2IT. Both are very active in the Antique Wireless Association (AWA) and possess a wealth of knowledge of radio communications history.

Ed, now retired, was an engineer for Harris RF Communications, and was actively involved in the development of military communications, including equipment that is currently used in Iraq and Afghanistan. He serves as RaRa Club Historian, and is well known for his extensive knowledge of electronic communications. Ed has delighted us year after year doing presentations for what has evolved to be named "Old Timers' Night." The tradition continues; be prepared for another great session with Ed.

But we are in for a double treat! Roy was scheduled to do his presentation back in January, but unfortunately, fell victim to illness and his presentation had to be delayed. Roy has refurbished several radios used for military applications, and will do demonstrations of selected portable military radios. The



working radios that will be presented cover a range of portable gear used from WWII through Desert Storm. My guess is that there are significant changes to the communications equipment during that time period! Additionally, there will be several examples of units that have been used by the Soviets as well as by the Iraqis. Hams love hands on, twisting and turning knobs and dials, etc. This is a great opportunity, so plan on attending.

Here's your 'heads up': Our May RaRa meeting will be SKYWARN Training, which always packs the house.

This month in the RaRa RAG...

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RARA Meeting April 6th, 2012 7:30PM

Henrietta Fire Co. #1
3129 East Henrietta Rd. (15A)



The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RaRa

Deadlines...

It seems as though every time you turn around there's a deadline to meet; well here's two more for your list:

April 1st – Make sure your membership information is correct and appears as you want it to appear on your membership card / name tag. Specifically: Your first name, or a nickname, and your call sign. Instructions for updating your information have already appeared in recent issues of the RAG, so I won't bore you with them again here. Cards will be ordered the first week of April for distribution at the Hamfest.

April 15th – All applications for the RaRa Memorial Scholarship must be received in the RaRa PO Box by midnight April 15th. Qualifications, instructions, and applications are available on the RaRa website: (<http://www.rochesterham.org/Scholarship.htm>).

Every year a small army of area Amateurs volunteers their time and communications expertise to assist the producers and organizers of over a dozen events. Some events require fewer than six radio operators while others require tens - over a number of days. If the logistics of coordinating each individual event is on par with mobilizing a platoon, then overseeing all of them must be like coordinating a war. Of course the events I refer to are the Public Service Events to which RaRa provides communications services.

K2SI, Duane Fregoe, has been the General of that army for the past five years and has recently announced to the Board of Directors that he will be retiring from his command and turning the reins over to KC2REO, Dave Snyder. Dave brings years of Public Service management to the position both as event Captain for RaRa events and, as Past President of the RIT ARC, for events covered by K2GXT. Please join me and the entire RaRa Board of Directors with a sincere and hardy thank you to Duane for those years of dedicated service. We would also like to welcome Dave to his post as RaRa Public Service Coordinator and thank him for taking on such a large responsibility and time consuming job. Please acknowledge them when you see them, and visit the website to volunteer for an upcoming event. (http://www.rochesterham.org/public_service.htm)

73 and happy DXing.
Frank
WB2PYD



Rochester Hamfest and Technology Expo Features:

- Weatherproof! – 60,000 square feet of air conditioned indoor flea market & vendors
- Tailgating on pavement
- Close to the Thruway with an on-site hotel
- Indoor setup 7-9 am
- Tailgate setup 6:30 am
- Doors open at 9 am!

Visit the website (www.RochesterHamfest.com) for up-to-date and late breaking news and photos of the new venue!

**Mark your calendars:
Saturday June 30th!**

**FREE Admission for
RaRa Members!**



Rag-Chew

Editor's Thoughts & Comments
By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY
Editor@RochesterHam.org

Have you ever wanted to visit the ARRL Headquarters, and perhaps operate the W1AW station? Have you visited HQ before, but would like to see the changes that have occurred in recent years? If so, you are in luck, because a group of hams is planning a chartered bus trip to the League this fall, September 28th through 30th. The trip features a professionally-planned itinerary by First Choice Educational Tours, Ltd., of Batavia, NY.

The trip will depart the Batavia area in the early AM and make a stop in Rochester to pick up more riders, as necessary. The trip also includes stops at the Submarine Force Museum, Mystic Seaport, a 90-minute cruise aboard a coal-fired steamboat, a visit to the New England Air Museum, and the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut.

The cost of the trip will depend on the number of travelers, and a deposit of \$129.00 is due on May 4, 2012. For more information, contact Pam, AB3PW at **585-599-3817** or by e-mail at pamw@buffalo.com.

From Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE comes news that RARA may be offering a Technician course in the spring/summer timeframe but details are not yet available. Stay tuned to the RARA website (www.rochesterham.org) for any possible updates.

Finally, reader Gerry Oliver (N2LQN) sent along a link to the BBC web page in recognition of their 80th year on the air:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17155441>. I know we have many readers who enjoy the SWL part of the hobby, and realize the significant role that the BBC has played over the years. While they are not as easy to hear since discontinuing their beam to North America, they are still on the air and able to be heard with a moderate strength on most days. Looking for more information on shortwave stations and schedules? Be sure to visit the site at <http://www.primetimeshortwave.com/>.

Are you looking for a way to benefit amateur radio with your United Way donation this year? Jim Sutton, N2OPS, works with the On The Road Youth Ministry program in Mount Morris, which sponsors the Fishermen's Net Amateur Radio Club (KC2RHY), and teaches licensing courses to young people. The club website can be found at www.kc2rhy.com and the youth ministry site is at www.otrym.org. Check these websites to learn more about the work these groups are doing. Greater Rochester United Way Donors interested in supporting their efforts may choose **Donor Option 1903**.

73, and best DX.

Calendar of Events

- Apr 6** RaRa General Meeting – 7:30
Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- Apr 11** RaRa Board of Directors
5:30 PM, RIT
Engineering Hall, Room 2110
- Apr 21** RaRa VE Testing sessions
10:00 AM, RIT
Gleason Hall, Room 3139

Silent Keys

Sam Cohen, N2BEO
January 10th, 2012

Phil Bradway, KB2HQ
February 25th, 2012

Christopher P. Leven,
N2VTM
February 25th, 2012

RaRa VE News

By Ken Hall, W2KRH

In January we had 5 candidates; 3 Technician, 1 General and 1 Extra as listed below:

Eric	Bohannon	KD2BMC	T
Richard	Kolacki	KD2BMD	T
William	Phillips	KD2BME	T
David	Avery	KC2YHF	G
Lance	Merritt	N2UGR	E

Then in February we had 18 successful candidates with 11 Technician, 3 General and 4 Extra class license/upgrade granted, as listed below.

Timothy	Augustyn Jr	KD2BQO	T
Nathanael	Ayres	KD2BQP	T
Jay	Bonner	KD2BQQ	T
Gloria	Butterworth	KD2BQR	T
Frederick	Green	KD2BQS	T
Christopher	Hauser	KD2BQT	T
Peter	Kratz	KB3YDA	T
John	O'Meara	KD2BQU	T
Gary	Pannone	KD2BQV	T
Lawrence	Peck	KD2BQW	T
William	Schirmer	KD2BQX	T
Maria	Delle Fave	KD2AZE	G
Bernard	Fioravanti	KD2BEB	G
Aaron	Herting	KD2BEC	G
James	Empey	KB2CIC	E
Louise	Hennen	KD2AJT	E
Forest	Shick	WA2MZG	E
John	Stevens	WB2BYP	E

Our next session will be held on April 21st at RIT and the final session for this period will be at the Hamfest on June 30th at the Gordon Field house. September 15th will see us back in Room 9-3139 at RIT.

Meeting Prizes!

Jay Hamill, KC2TCM
Sabrina Hamill, WD2STK

For April's meeting we have a trio of books that complement each other. *Buying A Used Shortwave Receiver*, *Listening to Longwave*, and *Pirate Radio: The incredible saga of America's underground, illegal broadcasters*. Next we have an Icom cooler bag and a Yaesu beverage cooler courtesy of Universal Radio, Inc. The last prize is a bundle consisting of a portable fan, illuminated mirror, and pocket flashlight. Next month, we're planning on having something for the out-of-doors. Stay tuned!



RARA Academy #5!

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

RARA Academy #5 is on for **Saturday April 14, 2012**. It will be at the RIT Campus on Jefferson Road, Building #9 (Gleason Building), Room #9-2030. This is a conference room on the 2nd floor and is a different room from what we used for past sessions. The class will start at 9:00AM.

This Academy will be an antenna build project. We will be building a tape measure antenna commonly used for fox hunting. A kit will be supplied for each attendee and we will assemble them. If you bring a small pair of scissors for cutting electrical tape and a slotted screwdriver for the hose clamps it should make for an easy project. A quick lesson in fox hunting will be offered and then we will put the new antennas to the test. There are plenty of great places to hide a transmitter on the RIT campus.



RARA ACADEMY #5

Open to all new ham radio operators and anyone thinking about joining the fun. Bring a friend. Door prizes to be given away. **ALL FREE**

DATE: SATURDAY, April 14, 2012

TIME: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Registration: 8:45 AM)

LOCATION: RIT CAMPUS, JEFFERSON ROAD
Gleason Building #9, ROOM #9-2030 (2ND Floor Conference Room)

RSVP: Please send your name, call sign if you have one, and email address to Duane Fregoe, k2si@arrl.net. If you cannot make this session but would like info on future sessions please send the same info and note that you cannot make this one. Future notices will go out via email, the web site, and RARA Facebook page.

SCHEDULE:

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM "Antenna Build"

We are going to be building a beam antenna with steel tape measure elements. The beam will be constructed of PVC. These are fairly common antennas for radio direction finding or more commonly known as fox hunting. Each pre-registered participant will receive a FREE kit with all the parts cut to length. After a simple assembly process you will have a working fox hunt antenna. These antennas will have a PL-259 connector on the end of the coax so please bring the adaptor to get the PL-259 connected to your HT. Two other items you should bring would be a small pair of scissors and a slotted screwdriver.

Instructors: Duane Fregoe (K2SI) & Jon Dickason (N2JAC)

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM "Fox Hunt Instruction"

We want everyone to be successful on their first fox hunt so we have included a short instructional period on how to find the fox. We will show some of the tips and tricks that you can use with an HT, a rubber duck antenna, and your newly constructed tape measure beam antenna. Instructor: Jon Dickason (N2JAC)

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM BREAK

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM "Fox Hunting"

Time to go fox hunting. RIT is a big campus so I would bring some good walking shoes. A radio transmitter (the fox) will be located on campus for all to find. We may even have a small door prize for the person that can find it first. If the fox has found a difficult location clues will be offered as time goes on.

Hunt Master: Jon Dickason (N2JAC)

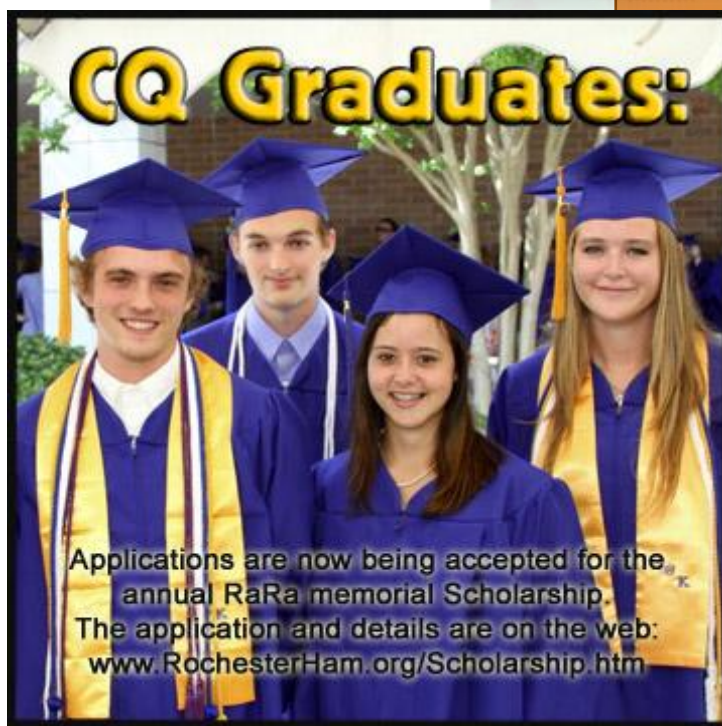
This event is being hosted on behalf of K2GXT, the RIT Amateur Radio Club.
This **FREE** event is sponsored by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association.
YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER SO WE CAN SUPPLY THE CORRECT NUMBER OF KITS.
Check the location above: We will not be in our usual room

RaRa Membership / ID Card Reminder

Deadline: April 1st 2012

The new permanent membership / ID cards will be ordered soon so be sure your membership is current and your name and call sign are listed correctly. If you prefer to have your ID printed with something other than your formal first name log on to (<http://www.rochesterham.org/Membership-Data.aspx>) and edit your record; enter a "nick name" and that's what will appear on your ID. If you're not sure your membership is current you can search the membership roster at (<http://www.rochesterham.org/Membership.htm>). If you're not in the list, you're not a current member and won't be included in this order. So join or renew TODAY! Subsequent card orders will be as needed... maybe twice a year.

So be sure you're current and your data is accurate before April 1st!



New home of the Rochester Hamfest – The Gordon Field house at RIT!!!



Scanning Report: FRS Monitoring

By Jim Sutton, N2OPS

Want to hear some really different communications where anything goes? Then put the 22 General Mobile Radio Service or GMRS frequencies in your scanner. These UHF frequencies are used by hand held and mobile transceivers usually operating around 1-5 watts. Even though they are not intended for business use, many businesses can be found on FRS and GMRS frequencies. They are most active during the summer months at special events, hamfests, parks, attractions, etc.

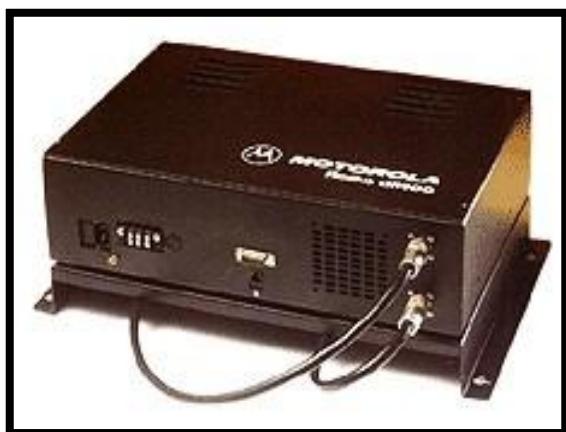
GMRS and FRS units use CTCSS and DCS tones for privacy from listening to other users. It is misunderstood by some users to mean that they cannot be heard.

FRS or Family Radio Service users who desire more range can move up to GMRS or General Mobile Service. In this story we will look at both listening to GMRS on a scanner and the basics for equipping non-ham family members with basic communications.

You just might pique enough interest in two way radio to take your family members the next step up to amateur radio.

Here is a comparison of FRS vs. GMRS:

• FRS Family Radio Service	• GMRS General Mobile Radio Service
Limited to ½ watt	May use up to 50 watts
No license	License for immediate family
Fixed antennas on radios	Detachable antennas allowing outside or mobile antennas
14 frequencies	22 frequencies including repeater inputs
Mostly toy-type handheld units	Full range of handheld and mobile units including professional land mobile equipment
1/3 to 1 mile basic range	Range can be many miles depending on power and antenna height
Simplex only	Repeaters can be used
Basic batteries	Many battery options including professional battery packs



RaRa Club LOGO Items



Don't feel left out- get your RaRa logo items today!

<http://www.rochesterham.org/logo.htm>

Here is a listing of GMRS frequencies and their uses:

GMRS Frequency	Designator	Repeater Input
462.5500	GMRS 1	467.5500
462.5625	FRS 1/GMRS splinter	
462.5750	GMRS 2 White Dot	467.5750
462.5875	FRS 2/GMRS splinter	
462.6000	GMRS 3	467.6000
462.6125	FRS 3/GMRS splinter	
462.6250	GMRS 4 Black Dot	467.6250
462.6375	FRS 4/GMRS splinter	
462.6500	GMRS 5 (Not north of Line A)	467.6500
462.6625	FRS 5/GMRS splinter	
462.6750	GMRS 6 Orange Dot	467.6750
462.6875	FRS 6/GMRS splinter	
462.7000	GMRS 7(Not north of Line A)	467.7000
462.7125	FRS 7/GMRS splinter	
462.7250	GMRS 8	467.7250

Combo 22 channel and 14 channel radios rarely find the buyer properly licensing the units. The FCC has a proposal to eliminate licensing of GMRS. It has been pending since 2010.

Advertising for FRS and GMRS radios makes claims of ridiculous communications ranges. An article on the REI website does a nice overview of FRS and GMRS radios with realistic communications ranges.

Apply for GMRS License Online

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

FCC Description

<http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/general-mobile-radio-service-gmrs>

GMRS Description

<http://www.gmrsgeneralmobileradioservice.com/index.htm>

GMRS Repeaters

<http://www.mygmrs.com/>

Exhaustive list with weekly email updates

GMRS Radio Source

<http://www.gmrsoutlet.com/home.php>

REI FRS and GMRS Summary

<http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/twoway+radios.html>

Next month we will look at yet a third type of personal radio service called MURS, which operates on VHF.

Until then 73 to thee.



RARA Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RaRa Historian

20 Years Ago, April, 1992

Following RaRa tradition the April meeting was Old Timer's night at the 40 and 8 Club venue. On stage were Bruce Kelley, W2ICE and Ed Gable, K2MP, who entertained and enlightened attendees on vacuum tubes and why some were worth ten cents and others a thousand dollars or more.

The Rochester VHF Group, announced that they had won the competition to host the annual *Microwave Update Conference* for 1992. VHF Group Secretary Ed Gable, K2MP, wrote to inform readers that this conference brought together the very top microwave enthusiasts from all over the country to present papers on the latest technology and progress in microwave techniques both amateur and commercial. (Note – 20 years later the RVHFG is planning to host this conference again. Stay tuned – Ed)

It was reported that the RaRa testing sessions continue to provide excellent service to the community with last month's session upgrading eight smiling local hams. Long term testing volunteers include Stan WM3D, Barb AA2CX, George AA2FO, Sid KD2WV and Lou K2ANC. Jim Frederick, K2GBR, and his wife Hutch, WW2A, wrote an interesting article describing their trip to the Galapagos Islands. To Jim's surprise he found an ICOM ham transceiver on the bridge of the boat tuned to 20 meter SSB. He got permission to operate the rig and promptly snagged a Syracuse station and a pile-up started. Neat story.

Tim Stoffel, NS9E, wrote a long, two page article, describing in detail the rules for a new operating contest offered by the Rochester VHF Group. Geared at increasing activity during the ARRL January VHF contest, the Rochester Cup encouraged local radio clubs to compete against each other to win the cup for the year. There were no Want Ads in this issue but a new commercial advertiser was the Ramsey Electronics Outlet Store on Canning Parkway in Victor, NY.

40 Years Ago, April, 1972

Old Timer's night was the theme at the April 7th meeting. A special recognition was made for then old, old timers George Batterson W2GB, Bill Bellor W2MG, Hank Blodgett W2UTH and Duck E. Dengler W2LK. Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, Curator of the AWA museum, then presented another of his outstanding programs, this one titled "The Golden Twenties." An unknown writer penned a long and detailed article describing the May 12/13 Rochester Hamfest to be held at the Dome Arena. Two days of continuous ham activity are promised along with guests of honor Noel Eaton VE3CJ, the Canadian ARRL Director and a good friend of RaRa Mr. Harry Dannals W2TUK. Reduced tickets will be available at the RaRa meeting from ticket Chairman Bob Lozen, WB2ERE.

Ed Gable W2MPM, writing for the RRRA, gave some interesting stats on repeater use in the US. At this time there were 269 two-meter repeaters of which 108 were on 34/94, while most others were on 34/76. Repeater users are urged to use standard 600 kc spacing and to universally switch to narrowband 5 kc modulation. With regret it was written that Joel Payne W2UXP, of Webster, became a silent key. Joel, licensed in 1928, was a charter member of the Rochester VHF Group. There were no Want Ads in this issue. A new commercial advertiser was JC Sales of 2383 West Side Drive in North Chili, selling Gladding and other VHF FM amateur gear.

Questions,
Comments?
Call the

RaRa Hotline
(585)
210-8910
24 Hours a Day



News from our friends at other area clubs...

Editor's Note: Free press is available for your club! We welcome brief updates and meeting notices from all area ham clubs. Just send your input to editor@rochesterham.org. When preparing your article, please remember to keep it short, and assume that readers know nothing about your club. The article should be focused toward non-members, and not your own current members... that's what your own newsletter is for! We hope all area clubs will take advantage of this opportunity to interest new members in joining their ranks. 73, -Kevin

Monroe County ARES / RACES News

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. All ARES / RACES members and non-member Amateur Radio Operators are welcome and encouraged to attend. The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, April 26, 2012, at 7:00 PM.** Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)

ARES NET: Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 9:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz. (-) 110.9 Hz PL repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

NBEMS: Want to learn about Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS)? It's the latest and easiest way to "Go Digital!" Bring your laptop computer and 2-M handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2012.

AWA News

By Lynn Bisha, W2BSN

The annual AWA Spring Meet will be held **May 5th, 2012**, at the Veterans Park Complex beginning at 7:00 A.M. for sellers. Doors at both the former AWA Annex and the Lodge open to the public at 8:00 A.M. The day is devoted to communications themes, screening of vintage films and AWA equipment sale and auction at the Annex.

AWA Members Ron Frisbee and Felicia Kreuzer will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Titanic disaster on April 14th, 1912, during a presentation at the Lodge. Refreshments will be available at the Lodge throughout the day.

The present Academy Museum and the future museum, currently under renovation, will be open for tours during the afternoon. Indoor flea market tables and outdoor parking lot spaces for sellers remain at \$ 7.00 and registration for all participants is \$ 5.00.

At the conclusion of the auction, drawings will be held for an AWA artifact and a year's AWA membership. Contact Spring Meet Coordinator Ron Roach at **(585) 750-5451** for further information.



ANTIQUE WIRELESS
ASSOCIATION
SPRING MEET
VINTAGE RADIO AUCTION,
FLEA MARKET,
TOURS OF MUSEUM CAMPUS
SATURDAY, MAY 5th, 2012
BLOOMFIELD VETERANS PARK,
6920 ROUTE 5 & 20
EAST BLOOMFIELD, NY 14469

The Amateur's Code

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

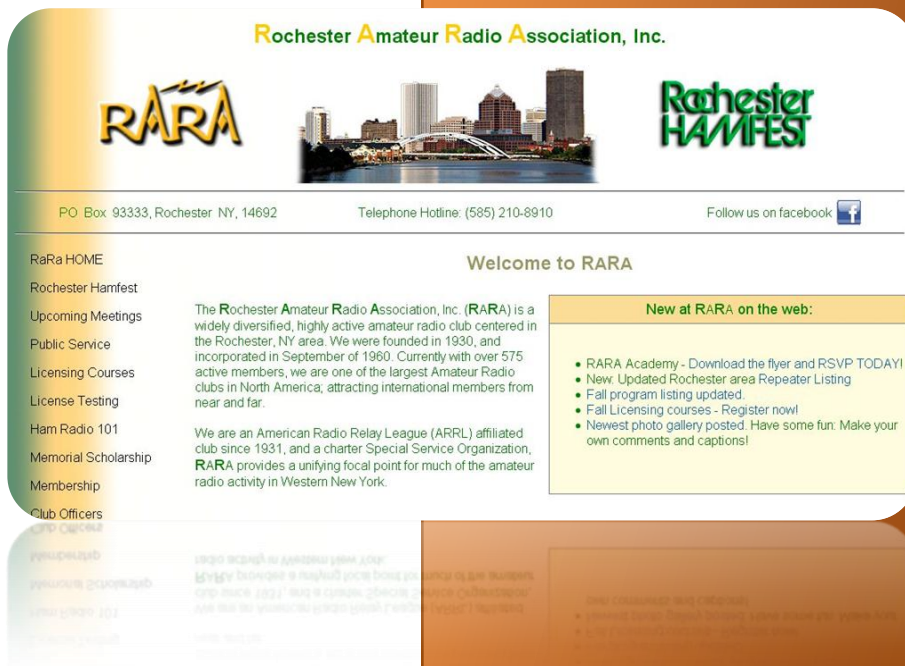
The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community

Visit the RARA Website!

Did you know that your club's website (www.rochesterham.org) offers these features and more?

- ✓ Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- ✓ Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- ✓ Rochester Hamfest information!
- ✓ Online membership & renewal
- ✓ Track and redeem your Reward points
- ✓ Public service info & sign-up
- ✓ VE testing info
- ✓ Back issues of the *Rag* in PDF
- ✓ Officer contact info
- ✓ List of past presidents (how many do you remember?)
- ✓ Online membership directory
- ✓ Order RARA logo products (hats, shirts, and mugs)
- ✓ Useful Internet links
- ✓ Ham Radio 101—tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



THE RARA MARKET PLACE

Your commercial ad could be here! The RARA Rag can help spread the word on your business at very reasonable rates. Contact us for details at editor@rochesterham.org.

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THE RARA RAG

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..... Sabrina Hamill, WD2STK
Club Historian Ed Gable, K2MP
Club Station Trustee Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
Education Coordinator Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE
Hamfest Producer Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Public Service Coordinator Duane Fregoe, K2SI
License Testing Coordinator Ken Hall, W2KRH
Membership Secretary Lisa Schramm, KC2VHT
Media Communications Len Crellin, KC2PCD
RaRa RAG Managing Editor Kevin Carey, WB2QMY
RaRa RAG Layout Editor Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Refreshments Coordinator Tom Austin, KA2GXX
Webmaster Frank Schramm, WB2PYD

RaRa meets on the first Friday of each month
from September through May. Come join us at:

Henrietta Fire Company No.1
3129 East Henrietta Rd.
Henrietta, NY 14467

[Get Directions](#)

Rochester Area Radio Club Contacts

Antique Wireless Association (AWA)

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Rich Hamill, KC2TNJ tinker@rochester.rr.com

Fisherman's Net Amateur Radio Club

Jim Sutton, N2OPS jim@otrym.org

Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn

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Monroe County ARES

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May Rag Deadline
April 15, 2012

